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**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701
309-828-0235
uubn.org
office@uubn.org

April 13, 2024

This Sunday's Worship Service:

Give Up That Grudge

Julie Prandi and Cindy Cotton, Worship Associate

Join us in one of the following ways:

- In person
- Telephone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.
- Click below to join on Zoom. If you need a passcode, it's XXXXX

[Click Here to Join on Zoom](#)

[Click Here for Order of Service](#)

Upcoming Services

4/21 - All Ages Earth Day - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

4/28 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation - Cindy Cotton and Chad Kahl, Worship Associates

Want to plan something at the church or do you have something you want people to know about?

Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am

Event Registration Form

Communication Form

Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca (minister@uubn.org) if you need a listening ear, practical support such as rides or meals, or short term financial support.



This Week's Events

Sunday, April 14

8:45 am—9:45 am
9:45 am – 11:15 am
10:00 am – 11:15 am
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Adult Choir (Walker Room)
Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room)
RE for Children and Youth (Sanctuary, Lower Level)
Outreach Events Planning (Irvin Room)
Taking Flight (Lower Level)
BN Meditation Group (Walker Room, Online)

Monday, April 15

11:45 am – 1:00 pm
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation (Walker Room)

Tuesday, April 16

6:30 pm – 8:15 pm

Private Event (Fell Room)

Wednesday, April 17

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
5:00 pm – 5:40 pm
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Private Event (Sanctuary)
Emerson Singers (Up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
Craft Night (Fell Room)
3rd Wednesday Covenant Group (High School Youth Room)

Thursday, April 18

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
Private Event (Whole Church)
Long Range Planning Task (High School Youth Room)
Bridge Group (Bradley Welcome Room)
Third Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

Friday, April 19

9:00 am – 10:30 am
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Private Event (Fell Room)
Transgender and Non-Binary Resource Fair (Fell Room)
Adult Game Night (Walker Room)

Saturday, April 20

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Room)

Reception for Suan Guess-Hanson's Art Exhibit (Fell Room, Walker

[To View the Events Calendar Click Here](#)

Rev. Gant on Civil Rights Sites Trip April 11-19

Dear ones,

As I have mentioned to many of you, I'm participating in a trip to learn more about Civil Rights era history and to see the sites where many important events took place. This trip will be with clergy and congregants from a variety of congregations-- Moses Montefiore, Normal First United Methodist, Mennonite Church Normal, as well as a scattering of folks from other Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal congregations. Our members Bill Rau and Barb Heyl will also attend.

The 40+ people who will go on the trip have been meeting together for several months to learn more about the history and the sites we will visit. We've read *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* together and begun to get acquainted. It has been a great experience so far!

What does this mean for UUBN? I think you won't notice a huge difference. I will officially be on Study Leave, which means I will check email daily, but my responses to non-emergent issues will be delayed. I will still be available by phone or text if you have a need to reach me quickly, and I'll check in with staff periodically. Worship on the 14th will be in the capable hands of the Worship Team.

I'm sure you'll hear about our experience on the trip through the Parish News and in future sermons.

I'm so grateful to be in a position where I'm expected to continue to learn and grow-- and that that learning and growth is supported by professional development funds. Thank you for the opportunity!

Until Justice Just Is*,
Rev. Rebecca

(*I shamelessly stole this phrase from a Bloomington YWCA button)

If you'd like to see the information about the new members check out the display in the Fell Room or log into the website and [click here](#).



Religious Exploration News

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, LRE@uubn.org
Planning Team: Erin Ripley-Gataric (Team Lead), Jeska Vannoy, Mercy Davison



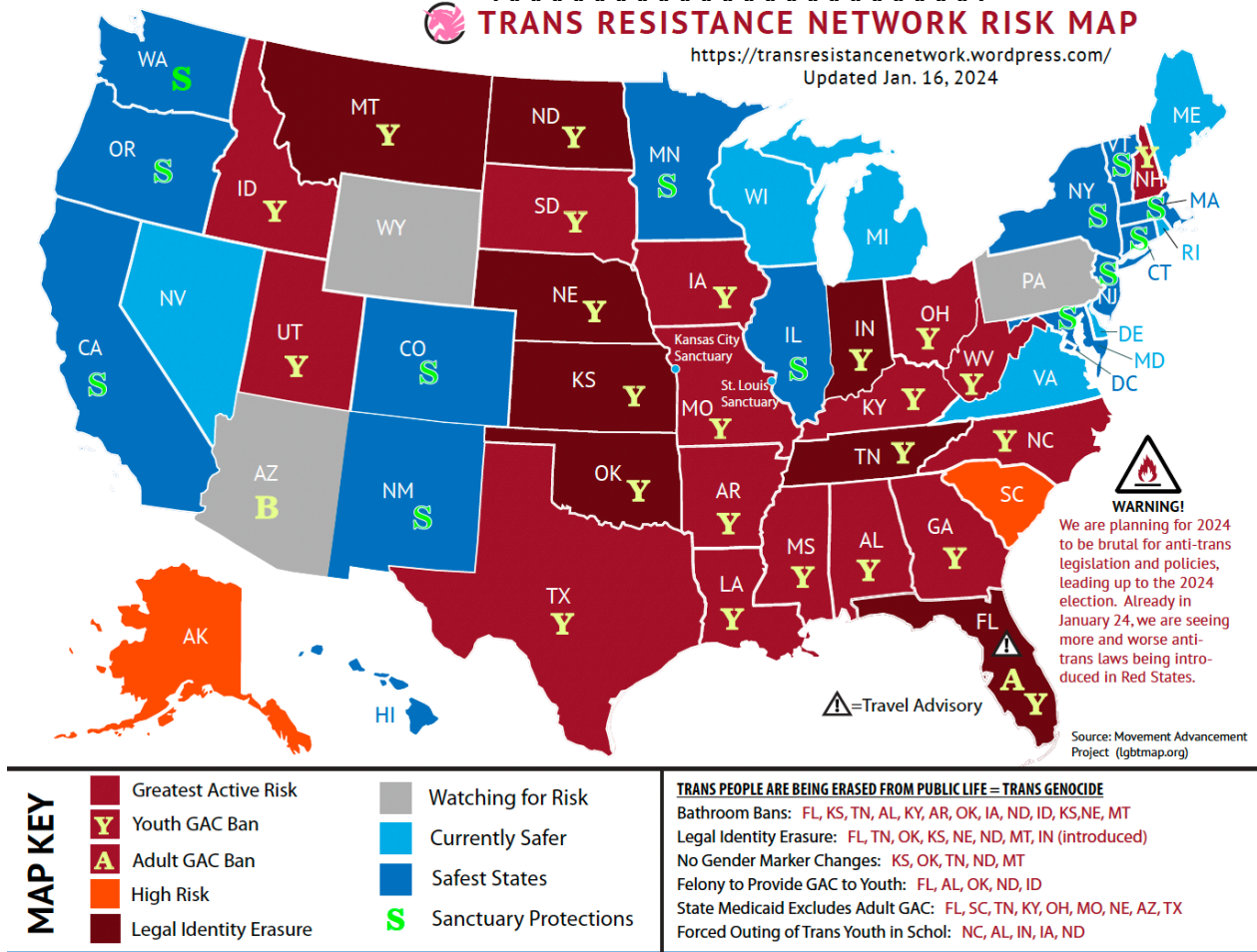
Second Annual Transgender Resource Fair

Friday, April 19, 4:00-7:00

Spread the word! Together with Prairie Pride Coalition, we're hosting vendors and organizations that provide resources and support to the transgender and nonbinary community. We'll have sandwiches and treats from Great Harvest Bread Company. The Mobile DMV will be here! With acceptable forms of identification and payment, they'll provide these services: Driver's License (renewal, duplicate, corrected), State Identification Card, Vehicle Registration Stickers, Organ & Tissue Donor, Voter Registration, REAL ID.

Other Confirmed Participants: Equality Illinois, Gender Expansive Resource Center, BobzBay, Evergreen Counseling/Tara Valentine, ISU Speech and Hearing Clinic, McLean County Health Department, Carle Bromenn Healthcare and a therapy dog, Central Illinois Friends (with their mobile unit), Prairie State Legal Services, Planned Parenthood, Positive Health Solutions, Caswyn Oaks Massage, Over the Rainbow, PFLAG, Prairie Pride Coalition, Carolyn Moon and Therapy Dog Ellie, Queer Coalition at ISU, Magnolia Salon & Sweetbay Boutique, Red Raccoon Games, Hail the Hair King, and Sgt. Kiel Nowers, BPD.

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 **TRANS RESISTANCE NETWORK RISK MAP**
<https://transresistancenetwork.wordpress.com/>
 Updated Jan. 16, 2024



Pink Haven Coalition & Our Response to Anti-LGBTQI Legislation

As many of you know, our trans and gender expansive Beloveds are under attack and being criminalized* in many US states. This is so serious that they fit the criteria to be designated as internally displaced people (IDPs) by the United Nations. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) are partnering directly with frontline trans-led organizing to create networks of safety and direct support for Beloveds who need to relocate, access healthcare across state lines, or stay as safe as possible where they are. Because of safety concerns for these trans organizers, we are prioritizing security over transparency right now, which is allowing us to move together in deep trust during these crucial, scary times. This network has come to be known as the Pink Haven Coalition.

A small group of UUBNers met with Heather Vickery from UUSC to learn more about how we can get involved in supporting trans folks hoping to relocate to Bloomington-Normal or needing a place to land for a short time on their way to a new home community. Illinois is considered one of the most affordable safe states! UU of Peoria is already involved and the hope is that all Central Illinois UU churches will join in.

Have you ever wondered how you would have supported people whose rights were being violated in the past? Now is your chance to take action! Soon we will schedule a planning meeting that will be open to all. During that meeting, we will break into four planning groups (housing, fundraising, daily needs, and systems support) to start mapping out what resources and connections we can bring to this work and consider what next steps might be.

Want to help immediately? You can visit www.PinkHaven.org and click donate. All donations are moving directly into the hands of trans-led organizers and being used to support trans and non-binary people in accessing the resources and support they need to survive and thrive. We are

deeply grateful to First Parish Malden UU Congregation for serving as the fiscal sponsor for this work.

*Learn more:

<https://translegislation.com>

<https://newsisout.com/2023/11/how-conservative-playbook-project-2025-could-affect-lgbtq-people-if-it-comes-to-pass/21317/>

<https://globalextrémism.org/project-2025-the-far-right-playbook-for-american-authoritarianism/>

<https://msmagazine.com/2024/02/08/project-2025-conservative-right-wing-trump-woke/>

Earth Day! Dirt Communion

Sunday, April 21

During our All Ages Earth Day service, we'll have our first ever Dirt Communion. All are encouraged to bring a little bit of soil (in a cup, can, or jar) from home - whatever home means to you - or from a place where you find your peace, find your power, find your joy.

All Ages First Wednesday Game and Grub

Wednesday, May 1, 6:00-8:00, Fell Room

Everyone is invited to First Wednesday Game and Grub in the Fell Room from 6:00-8:00. Bring a snack to share.

We have games for young children, mixed age groups, adult groups, small groups, large groups. Puzzles too! Children younger than junior high need an adult to stay with them. Rain is hosting this month!

Adult RE: Building a Better Apology

Sunday, May 5, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room

Our congregation has a Behavioral Covenant. Children and Youth in our programs create covenants. And yet, we struggle with calling people into covenant, being called into covenant, and what comes after. SorryWatch has a new book out! Together, let's explore [SorryWatch's Six Steps to a Good Apology](#).

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at tom@firstparishmalden.org or text/call [781-326-1000](tel:781-326-1000) to join any of the following Zoom discussions as participant or listener. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the session.

The purpose of the First Sunday Nonfiction Book Group is to educate ourselves in order to take actions toward justice for all in public policy.

- May 5, 2-3 P.M. *The Primary Solution: Rescuing Our Democracy from the Fringes*, Simon & Schuster, 2024. Supports eliminating partisan primaries in favor of nonpartisan primaries and other election reforms to bring back balance into the process.
- June 2, 2-3 P.M. *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community*, 2nd edition, Laura Erickson-Schroth, editor, Oxford University Press, 2022.

The **Unitarian Universalist Association selection for its 2023-2024 Common Read**: *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*, by Danya Ruttenberg. Participants chose to meet Thursday, May 2, 7-8 P.M. 4 registered.

The participants in the discussion of ***Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America***, by Heather Cox Richardson (author of *How the South Won the Civil War*). Penguin Random House, 2023, chose to meet Thursday, April 18, 7-8 P.M. 8 registered.

I have proposed to the participants registered to discuss Søren Kierkegaard's ***The Sickness Unto Death***, translation by Bruce H. Himmse, that we meet Thursday, May 16. 5 Registered.

Share Your Writing meets Wednesday, May 29, 7-8 P.M. Writing of any kind at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

End of Life Options Act Bill

SB3499, The End-of-Life Options Act was recently introduced to the Illinois General Assembly. It authorizes a qualified patient with a terminal disease to request that a physician prescribe aid-in-dying medication that will allow the patient to end the patient's life in a peaceful manner.

More information:

- <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/press-releases>
- <https://www.compassionandchoices.org/in-your-state/illinois>

If you are interested in supporting this bill, go to the ACLU Illinois' Support End of Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients message to legislator: <https://action.aclu.org/send-message/support-end-life-options-terminally-ill-patients>

Submitted by Chad Kahl

Carbon Capture/Sequestration Lobby Day

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00-2:00

The CCS Lobby day is April 17 in Springfield, 9am to 2pm. Illinois People's Action will be lobbying to protect the public from CO2 leaks as a result of carbon capture, transport and storage. Once CCS pipelines or sequestration wells get built, they will NEVER go away. You are the missing piece. [Please register for Lobby Day HERE](#).

Submitted by Julie Prandi

Announcements

Earth Day Brunch

Let's celebrate Earth Day with a VEGETARIAN potluck after our All Ages Earth Day service on Sunday, April 21. Click below for the signup genius and get creative with your favorite vegetarian or vegan dish. Gluten free is always welcome.

Submitted by Nancy Armstrong and the Green Sanctuary Team.



[Sign Up Here](#)



Sign Up to Volunteer Here

Spread Joy With Buttons, Stickers, and Cards

Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm
Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 pm

We will have 2 work sessions at UUBN to put together small gift bags for Queer Prom attendees.

To sign up click the button below.

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Join friends and allies to make buttons and stickers for youth attending Queer Prom in Bozeman, MT and Urbana-Champaign.

The goal is to send some love to youth in our community and beyond with affirming messages so that they feel valued and supported. Two Queer Proms will benefit from these efforts and both groups expect about 80 youth at each event. We will make around 200 buttons total plus multiple stickers with various messages on Pride Flag backgrounds. The kids love getting the buttons. Extras will be used for prizes at events.

Tasks at volunteer sessions include cutting artwork, pressing buttons, cutting stickers, assembling stickers for gift bags, etc.

Easy peasy and fun to boot!

Thank you for volunteering!

Email Brenda Wernick with questions.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Safety Training

May 12: Save the Date!

At 11:30 am after the service, Sergeant Kiel Nowers from the Bloomington Police Department will be on hand to discuss possible threats to the church and how to be prepared to deal with

them. Ushers, Greeters, Board Members, and Staff are encouraged to attend, but all are welcome!

-Julie Prandi



[Click Here to Start Shopping!](#)

[Want to Help? Click Here!](#)

Last Chance for the Talents & Treasures Auction!

Silent Auction ends today!

Tickets for the Live Auction April 13, sold at the door. Doors open at 6pm with Live Auction starting at 7pm.

Help support UUBN, get some great stuff, and have a great time.

New this year: Raffle tickets to win a seat at The Armstrong's Dinner or Plan a Worship Service with Rev. Rebecca. The Raffle winner will be selected before bidding begins. See Catalog for more details. PLEASE "check out" your raffle tickets as soon as you get them so they are "purchased." You will pay later, but need to register it as bought and not just in your cart.

Also, we need a few volunteers to help make the event run smooth on Saturday, April 13. You can volunteer and bid at the same time. No conflict of interest. If you are able to help, please click the button to sign up.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

Beltane

Saturday, May 4, 4:00, Fell Room

Come Join Many Paths CUUPS for our celebration of Beltane. Potluck, Ritual and the maypole will be featured for this wondrous celebration of Love. Please join us. Bring one of your favorite dishes to share with friends. Contact Sean-Thomas if you wish to be part of the ritual. You can find out more on the [Facebook Page for ManyPathsCUUPS](#).

Submitted by Sean-Thomas Gunnell

Help UUBN Become Known in Bloomington-Normal!

Sunday, April 14, 11:30, Irvin Room

You know how people say "I didn't even know this congregation existed"? We'd like to make that a thing of the past and need your help. At 11:30 on Sunday, April 14, join us in the Irvin Room to suggest events where we could set up a table or a booth to get the word out. We are also looking for friendly faces to staff those tables. Let's become the worst-kept secret in town!

What's on our schedule so far:

Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market Bake Sale booth (June 1), Juneteenth (June 22), Pridefest (Aug. 3), Festival ISU (end August/early September), ISU Drag Show (postponed; no date scheduled yet)

Questions or ideas? Contact Kathy Packard at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

-submitted by the Membership Team

Prostate Cancer Sufferers/Survivors

If you are interested in joining an information/support group, held in an accessible private home, call ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and ask for "prostate". Meeting times/frequencies are to be determined by the group.

Tornado Drill

Sunday, April 21

During worship on April 21 there will be a drill for tornado or severe weather danger. The primary shelter locations are the Lower Level Classrooms and Hallway, but not the Youth Room due to its exterior windows. The Main Level (north) hallway is the shelter location for those who are unable to use the stairs to the lower level. Designated people will give directions to ensure an orderly flow.



Donate to UUBN by Making Your Regular Purchases

Do you shop at Target? Walmart? Amazon? Jewel? Using the Great Lakes Scrip program (also called RaiseRight), you can buy gift cards online from these retailers and hundreds of others,

and a percentage of the purchase goes to UUBN. Then, use the e-gift cards immediately to make your regular purchases. With transaction fees as low as \$0.29 per transaction, your daily purchases can make a big difference for UUBN! Visit www.raiseright.com to learn more.

Interested in signing up? The code is AEDE72CB24416. Contact Chris Price at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (call or text) for if you have questions.



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

The West Bloomington Revitalization Project

The West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP) serves to empower residents and revitalize West Bloomington. WBRP offers a wide variety of programs to support West Bloomington. These programs include the Book Bike, community gardens, Tool Library and workshop space, Bike Co-op, healthy eating program, art and beautification, Veggie Oasis, barbers and stylists with books, and Bed Blitz. They also provide online and neighborhood resources to residents.

To donate to The West Bloomington Revitalization Project, make out your check to WBRP and deliver to UUBN. Donations can also be made via the Breeze Online Giving website by clicking the button below or from your smartphone when you [download the app](#). Our subdomain is uubn.

[Learn More About WBRP](#)

[Donate Here](#)

STEWARDSHIP

Pledges from our members and friends support the ministries of the church. If you haven't made your pledge for 2024, here is the link: <https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/>

If you need to adjust your pledge, email Nancy Armstrong at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

Adult Game Night:

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 6pm. Bring any kind of board or card game you'd like to play. We play cooperative games, competitive games, simple games, complex games - we play everything. Bring something to drink (non-alcoholic). Shareable snacks are welcome but not required for attendance. Contact [Babs Allen](#) if you have questions.

Covenant Groups:

Lay-led small groups that meet once a month to deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation through spiritual and emotional connection. Email [Terina](#) to join a small group.

Mindfulness Meditation for Beginners:

Weekly practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm online. This is an opportunity to practice mindfulness meditation. While this practice is aimed at beginners, it is open to any one and all are welcome to participate. Contact [Dave Shanahan](#) with questions.

Monday Lunch Bunch:

Want to start your week with good company and lively, informal conversation? Join us in the Fell Room with or without your lunch. No reservations required. All topics are welcome. We light the chalice at 11:45 AM and release the flame at 1:00 PM. Coffee and tea provided. Hosted by the Membership Team.

Contacts

Staff

Rev. Rebecca Gant, Minister

minister@uubn.org

Available by appointment. Click this link to see when she's available:

<https://calendly.com/revrebeccagant/30min>

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

LRE@uubn.org

Available by Appointment

Blair Broughton, Office Manager

office@uubn.org

Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Charlie Berggren, Music Director

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Bob Mangialardi, Children's Choir Director

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician
avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician
avstaff@uubn.org

Sara Kaeb, Child Care
office@uubn.org

Board Information

President: Larissa Armstrong
Vice President: Julie Prandi
Secretary: Chad Kahl
Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong
Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell,
Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, and
Richard Seehuus.

Monthly Board Meetings are in Irvin Room
and Online at 6:30 on the Second Tuesday
of each month. All are welcome to attend.
Contact the office for the Zoom Link.

Contact the board at
uubnboard@uubn.org.

Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committees

Aesthetics
Building and Grounds
Committee on Shared Ministry
Finance and Stewardship
Denominational Affairs
Memorial Garden Stewards
Safety

Doug Johnson
Dick Hansen
Janet Tulley
Emile Garneau
Nancy Armstrong
Debby Funk
Julie Prandi

Teams

Membership and Outreach
Right Relations
Community Concerns
Green Sanctuary
Helping Hands
History
Religious Exploration (RE)
Social Justice

Kathy Packard
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Camille Ehlers
Nancy Armstrong
Carolyn Pitts
Joan Banks
Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter
Chad Kahl

Worship and Music
Pastoral Care

Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant
Rev. Rebecca Gant

To obtain contact information for the leads of these groups please see the [online directory](#) or [email the office](#).



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